

SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT FACT SHEET

Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services

This fact sheet contains information about the impact of alcohol and other drug use in the First Middlesex and Norfolk Senatorial District. Admission data were reported to the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS) Substance Abuse Management Information System in FY 2003.

Residents of First Middlesex and Norfolk Senatorial District

Characteristics of Admissions

In FY 2003, there were 115,896 admissions to licensed substance abuse treatment services in all of Massachusetts; less than one percent (561) of these admissions reside in the First Middlesex and Norfolk Senatorial District. 3% (16) of admissions from the First Middlesex and Norfolk Senatorial District were under 17 years of age. **Please note that these statistics represent only individual admissions, and represent a figure lower than the actual number of constituents in need of treatment services.** In FY 2003, admissions to all residential and outpatient substance abuse treatment services from First Middlesex and Norfolk Senatorial District reported the following characteristics:

- 70% male and 30% were female.
- 56% were between the ages of 21-39.
- 86% were white non-Latino, 7% were black non-Latino, 4% were Latino, and 3% were other racial categories.
- 65% were never married, 13% were married, and 22% reported not to be married now.
- 15% had less than high school education, 41% completed high school, and 44% had more than high school education.
- 39% were employed.
- 11% were homeless.
- 39% had prior mental health treatment.

Primary Substance of Use

At admission clients also identify a “primary drug” of use that is the substance for which the client is seeking treatment. Table 1 compares the proportional distribution of primary drugs in Massachusetts with that for the First Middlesex and Norfolk Senatorial District.

| Table 1 | | | | | |
|---|---------|--------|-----------|---------|-------|
| Primary Drug by District and State FY 2003 | | | | | |
| | Alcohol | Heroin | Marijuana | Cocaine | Crack |
| District | 58% | 21% | 7% | 3% | 3% |
| State | 43% | 38% | 6% | 4% | 4% |

Substances Used in Past Year

Upon entering treatment, each client is asked to report ALL substances used in the past year (12 months) prior to admission. Admissions frequently report using more than one substance within the year. The use of more than one psychoactive substance, such as alcohol and marijuana, is referred to as ‘polydrug’ or ‘polysubstance’ use.

Table 2 shows ALL substances which clients reported using in the year prior to admission, including the prevalence of injection drug users (IDU's), individuals who use a needle to ingest cocaine, crack, heroin or another drug to get high.

| Table 2 Annual Admissions by Substance Used: FY 1995 – FY 2003 | | | | | | | |
|---|-------|---------|-----------|---------|-------|--------|-----|
| First Middlesex and Norfolk Senatorial District | | | | | | | |
| | Total | Alcohol | Marijuana | Cocaine | Crack | Heroin | IDU |
| FY '95 | 623 | 504 | 199 | 199 | 102 | 170 | 130 |
| FY '96 | 642 | 520 | 198 | 186 | 85 | 178 | 136 |
| FY '97 | 660 | 556 | 217 | 173 | 74 | 131 | 99 |
| FY '98 | 628 | 523 | 182 | 155 | 73 | 133 | 110 |
| FY '99 | 606 | 491 | 158 | 134 | 64 | 164 | 125 |
| FY '00 | 609 | 494 | 159 | 114 | 65 | 164 | 122 |
| FY '01 | 542 | 430 | 150 | 107 | 61 | 136 | 94 |
| FY '02 | 603 | 475 | 150 | 128 | 60 | 173 | 126 |
| FY '03 | 561 | 447 | 152 | 109 | 51 | 132 | 109 |